

Salmon Region

The Salmon Region was occupied by 14 documented resident, 6 documented border (one tallied to Idaho and five to Montana), and 2 suspected packs during 2007 (Figure 13; Table 8). Of the 11 packs confirmed to have reproduced, 8 qualified as breeding pairs. Lethal control ($n = 12$) and other human-related ($n = 6$) causes were the only documented sources of mortality. Five resident packs were responsible for 11 confirmed and 4 probable cattle losses. An additional 10 cattle were categorized as confirmed ($n = 7$) and probable ($n = 3$) wolf-kills by suspected packs or unknown wolves. The Lemhi and Galena packs were confirmed to have killed nine and two sheep, respectively. Eleven wolves were captured, resulting in the deployment of 6 VHF and 4 GPS radiocollars.

Law Enforcement Summary

Conservation Officers, in consultation with USFWS Special Agents, investigated or responded to 12 reports involving wolves. Three wolves investigated were determined to be legally shot under provisions of the 10(j) Rule. A fourth wolf was legally shot in self defense after approaching a hunter to within 10 feet. Four wolves were determined to be illegally killed. One wolf was investigated and determined to have been struck by a vehicle. Officers also investigated 3 additional reports of dead wolves, but no carcasses were found.

Documented Resident Packs

Aparejo

Aerial locations in spring 2007 indicated this pack denned near where 2 wolves were captured and radiocollared in 2006. However, due to the remoteness of the location, the suspected den area was not surveyed to confirm reproduction. As such, this pack was not counted as a breeding pair. Winter aerial counts indicated a minimum of 13 wolves in this pack.

Basin Butte

The Basin Butte pack once again denned in the foothills northeast of Stanley, Idaho, raising a litter of 5 pups. Despite numerous cattle in the area, this pack was not implicated in any livestock depredations, which may be due to extensive monitoring and hazing by volunteers over the course of the spring and summer. One wolf was illegally killed (female B313) in June, resulting in an individual being ticketed for the offense. Aerial observations in winter indicated at least 13 wolves in this pack, which qualified as a breeding pair.

Buffalo Ridge

Consisting of at least 6 wolves in early 2007, this pack was decreased by one with the disappearance of radiocollared wolf B270 sometime in early winter. Wolf B270's whereabouts was later discovered after multiple depredations by unknown wolves near Picabo, Idaho, resulted in the lethal removal of B270 and 2 others in March. The Buffalo Ridge pack denned in the vicinity of their 2006 den location. Concurrent with a capture effort, 7 pups were observed. Trapping resulted in the capture and radiocollaring of a black yearling male, bringing to two the number of wolves being monitored in the pack. The Buffalo Ridge wolves were implicated in 1 probable and 1 confirmed depredation in spring; another 2 calves were confirmed killed in 2 incidents by the pack in December. As a result, 2 wolves were lethally removed. Aerial counts indicated a minimum of 6 wolves by the end of 2007, and this pack was counted as a breeding pair.

Castle Peak

The status of this pack has been unknown since the disappearance of B195, the only radiocollared wolf in the pack, in March 2004. After the disappearance of this pack, another pack (*see* Pass Creek) has since been radiocollared and located within the East Fork Salmon River drainage, an area that was traversed by the Castle Peak pack. The possibility remains that the 2 packs are one and the same. However, it seems unlikely that the question will ever be resolved, and given the unlikely probability of 2 packs residing so closely together, the Castle Peak pack is being dropped from the regional list and replaced by the Pass Creek pack.

Doublespring

Numerous sightings of wolves and wolf sign in the upper Pahsimeroi River Valley in fall resulted in the addition of this newly verified pack to the Salmon Region. In October, reputable observers reported seeing 8 wolves, one of which was a pup. Future attempts to place a radiocollar in this pack will facilitate determining if these wolves reside primarily in the Salmon Region, or if they also cross the boundary into the Upper Snake Region. As only 1 pup was counted, this pack was not counted as a breeding pair.

Galena

This pack's status was unknown for much of 2007, as the sole radiocollared wolf was located only once in May before going missing entirely. However, 8 pups were observed opportunistically at a traditional rendezvous site. Trapping was initiated after depredations of cattle and sheep (1 probable cattle, 2 confirmed sheep) indicated their presence at another known rendezvous site, and 2 male pups were captured and fitted with radiocollars (1 radiocollared wolf subsequently went missing shortly after it was instrumented). One wolf was later lethally removed as a result of the livestock depredations. This pack consisted of a minimum of 12 wolves by the end of 2007, and was counted as a breeding pair.

Hoodoo

Similar to 2006, aerial locations indicated the Hoodoo pack denned in their traditional location along the Middle Fork Salmon River, but the site's remoteness made it infeasible to survey for reproduction. With only 1 radiocollared wolf being monitored in the pack, several attempts were made during summer to locate the pack with the intent of trapping and radiocollaring, with limited success; while reproduction was verified during one of these efforts (a minimum of 3 pups counted), the wolves moved off before traps could be set. A minimum of 13 wolves was counted in the pack during winter counts, and was listed as a breeding pair.

Jureano Mountain

The disappearance of wolf B223 in spring left this pack without a radiocollared member, prompting efforts to locate this pack for trapping and radiocollaring. Searches for wolf presence at traditional den and rendezvous site locations in early summer eventually resulted in the successful location of the pack, and trapping was immediately initiated. Unfortunately, 2 pups were inadvertently trapped, causing the pack to move from the area. However, a subadult male was trapped near the abandoned rendezvous site and fitted with a GPS radiocollar to provide data for a research project investigating alternative wolf population monitoring techniques. In August, the Jureano Mountain pack was involved in 4 WS' investigations of depredations that resulted in the confirmation of 5 dead cattle. Three wolves were lethally controlled in response. Other mortality included an adult female wolf killed illegally in January. Although 2 pups were verified, temporarily fulfilling the breeding pair requirement, a pup was lethally removed during control efforts. This could conceivably have reduced the number of pups in the pack to one, and

without verification there were additional pups beyond the two initially observed, this pack was not counted as a breeding pair. The radiocollared wolf could not be located during winter aerial counts, and thus a pack size was not determined.

Landmark

The Landmark pack has not been monitored via radiocollared wolves since 2003. However, due to the fidelity this pack exhibits for den/rendezvous site locations, their continued presence has been confirmed in the past via ground surveys at these locations. A survey in September of a previously used rendezvous site revealed ample evidence that the Landmark pack reproduced. However, since no pups were observed, it was not possible to determine whether or not there were at least 2 pups produced to fulfill the breeding pair requirement; as such, this pack was considered as reproductive, but not a breeding pair.



An adult wolf from an unknown pack poses for a picture in a frosty meadow near Cape Horn.

Jason Husseman

Lemhi

In their second year as a documented pack, the Lemhi pack was reduced to 2 individuals due to mortality attributed to lethal control, legal and illegal take. In January, a pup was illegally killed after being caught inadvertently in a bobcat trap. In May, another wolf was legally shot among a landowner's sheep; the livestock owner had lost 6 sheep to wolves the previous day. After another confirmed sheep depredation (1 loss), WS lethally removed a black female from this pack. A third depredation in June resulted in 2 more confirmed sheep kills. This pack did not appear to reproduce, and was not a breeding pair in 2007.

Morgan Creek

The Morgan Creek pack was without radiocollared individuals and its status was unknown for most of 2007. In February, 2 calves were investigated by WS and listed as probable wolf kills, presumably by the Morgan Creek pack. After another confirmed calf kill in April, WS attempted to trap and radiocollar a wolf; 1 wolf was temporarily caught, but managed to pull out of the trap before it could be anesthetized. Reports of wolf activity in the Morgan Creek drainage in July initiated efforts to locate, capture, and radiocollar members of this pack. In July, 2 wolves were captured and fitted with GPS (*see* Research section) and VHF radiocollars. On the morning of the first capture, several adults and a minimum of 2 pups were heard howling nearby, substantiating reports by a range rider that the pack had reproduced and had a rendezvous site in an adjacent tributary. Due to livestock conflicts, the radiocollared animals were short-lived; female wolf B334 was legally shot by the range rider 2 weeks later when seen harassing cattle. The second radiocollared wolf was killed by WS along with another uncollared wolf in August after this pack's second confirmed cattle depredation of the year. Although no year-end aerial counts could be obtained, this pack was estimated to contain at least 5 individuals and was verified as a breeding pair for 2007.

Moyer Basin

This longstanding pack in the Salmon Region was targeted for helicopter capture concurrent to winter elk surveys, and in January, an adult male was successfully darted and fitted with a radiocollar. In spring, the pack denned near their 2006 den site, raising a litter of 5 pups. In June, a subadult female was captured and fitted with a GPS radiocollar. Unfortunately, the radiocollar failed shortly after deployment, necessitating the capture of another wolf. In a second effort, a pup too small for radiocollaring was captured, causing the pack to abandon their rendezvous site. Several weeks later, another attempt was made at the pack's new rendezvous site, resulting in the capture of the same pup previously caught. However, the pup had grown sufficiently large enough to justify placing a GPS radiocollar on the animal. The Moyer Basin pack was responsible for wounding a domestic calf in September, which later died from its wounds. This pack consisted of a minimum of 10 wolves by the end of 2007 and was a documented breeding pair.



Pups from the Moyer Basin pack playing on a warm summer afternoon.

Jason Husseman

Owl Creek

The uncollared Owl Creek pack was slated to be removed from the regional list due to the lack of any verified wolf activity since their discovery in 2005. Due to reports from the public, however, tracks of multiple wolves were confirmed by IDFG personnel in the area believed to be occupied by this pack. While the Owl Creek pack's status as a breeding pair remained unknown, they continued to count as a verified pack for the region.

Pass Creek

In January, the suspected breeding female from this pack was darted from a helicopter concurrent to ungulate capture operations for an IDFG elk research project (see Research section). Aerial telemetry indicated this pack denned in a tributary of the East Fork Salmon River, and reproduction was verified when 3 pups were observed from the air during an August monitoring flight. Aerial telemetry collected over the course of the year indicated this pack ranged over an area used in years previous by the Castle Peak pack, prompting them to be dropped from the regional list (*see* Castle Peak). One wolf was found in January that had been illegally killed within the Pass Creek pack's territory, presumably as a member of this pack. By year's end, a minimum of 8 wolves resided in this pack, which also qualified as a breeding pair.



An uncommon color phase, white female wolf B317 of the Pass Creek pack recuperates from anesthesia after being captured and fitted with a radiocollar.

Jason Husseman

Twin Peaks

Due to lack of verified wolf activity for 2 consecutive years, the Twin Peaks pack was dropped from the regional pack list.

Yankee Fork

The Yankee Fork pack was located intermittently in winter 2006/2007, but the radiocollared wolf, male B240, was missing for most of the summer and fall. Although several attempts were

made over the course of the field season to locate and determine the reproductive status of this pack, all efforts were unsuccessful. Without an aerial location for over 6 months, it seemed likely the radiocollared animal was either gone or its radiocollar had malfunctioned. Therefore, it came as somewhat of a surprise when B240's radio signal was detected loud and clear during a December monitoring flight, allowing IDFG personnel to observe 11 wolves in the pack. Because of their unknown reproductive status, the Yankee Fork pack was not considered a breeding pair.

Documented Border Packs

Battlefield (MT)

This documented border pack was tallied for Montana for 2007. See the respective State's annual report for information on this pack.

Black Canyon (MT)

This documented border pack was tallied for Montana for 2007. See the respective State's annual report for information on this pack.

Hughes Creek (ID)

Howling surveys conducted in July near this pack's previously known den/rendezvous site indicated the presence of a minimum of 2 pups. Another attempt to obtain a better pup count was unsuccessful, although visual confirmation of at least 2 pups was made. During fall, a hunter killed a wolf in self defense after it approached within 15 feet of him. Aerial counts indicated a minimum of 11 wolves in the pack, which also qualified as a breeding pair.

Miner Lakes (MT)

This documented border pack was tallied for Montana for 2007. See the respective State's annual report for information on this pack.

Painted Rocks (MT)

This documented border pack was tallied for Montana for 2007. See the respective State's annual report for information on this pack.

Sula (MT)

This documented border pack was tallied for Montana for 2007. See the respective State's annual report for information on this pack.

Suspected Resident Packs

Iron Creek

Numerous observations of wolves and confirmed wolf depredations over the past 2 years indicated the likely presence of a pack of wolves southwest of Salmon, Idaho. There were 3 confirmed and 1 probable cattle losses in this locale in 2007. With no confirmed activity from adjacent radiocollared packs near where these depredations or sightings have occurred, it appeared likely a pack has taken up residence in what was previously unoccupied territory along the west side of the Salmon River.

Leadore

Sporadic sightings of wolves and wolf sign continued to be reported from this location.

However, reported wolf activity was reduced from 2006, when the suspected breeding pair of this unknown pack of wolves was killed near a ranch southeast of Leadore, Idaho. Three cattle were confirmed killed in September in the area thought to be inhabited by this suspected pack.

Other Documented Wolf Groups

B07

Thought to be one of the last surviving wolves of the original 35 that were released into Idaho in 1995 and 1996, B07 was found dead in January in a gulch next to the highway north of Salmon, Idaho. A necropsy of the carcass indicated the wolf was likely struck by a car. Because of the fact the wolf's teeth were so extensively worn, it's likely this animal was no longer able to capture prey and was subsisting on road-killed animals, thus potentially predisposing it to being hit by a vehicle. Wolf B07 and his mate B11 were the founding pair of the Big Hole pack, first in the Big Hole of Montana, and then along the Idaho-Montana divide after he and B11 were relocated due to livestock conflicts. The radiocollar B07 was wearing failed some time in 2003 while still a member of the Big Hole pack, and his status was unknown (though it was likely he was observed there in 2005) until his carcass was eventually discovered by bird hunters. It was presumed that he was displaced as the breeding male of the pack by a younger wolf, and was roaming the mountains of Idaho and Montana as a lone wolf until his death.

B283

Female wolf B283 dispersed from the Warm Springs pack in fall, and was observed from the air with another uncollared wolf on several occasions in the vicinity of Stanley, Idaho. By winter, this pair appeared to be attempting to establish a territory within the Sawtooth National Recreation Area along the White Cloud Peaks range. Additional aerial locations will facilitate determining whether this pair is successful in locating unoccupied range within an area that already supports several packs.

B290

After being captured in summer 2006 as a member of the Morgan Creek pack, female B290 most likely dispersed some time in late fall or early winter 2006/2007. She was located in February near the Hughes Creek pack, well north of her natal pack's territory. B290's signal was not detected thereafter, and she is considered missing.

SW-64

A dispersing wolf from the Sage Creek pack of Montana, telemetry locations in 2007 indicated SW-64 was spending time in both Idaho and Montana in the upper Lemhi River drainage. Thought to be a lone wolf after the female he was traveling with was killed in November 2006, SW-64 was observed from the air in October with another wolf.

2007 Salmon Region Wolf Activity

2006-07 Telemetry and Research-based Locations * 2007 Estimated Locations (Not Telemetry-based)**

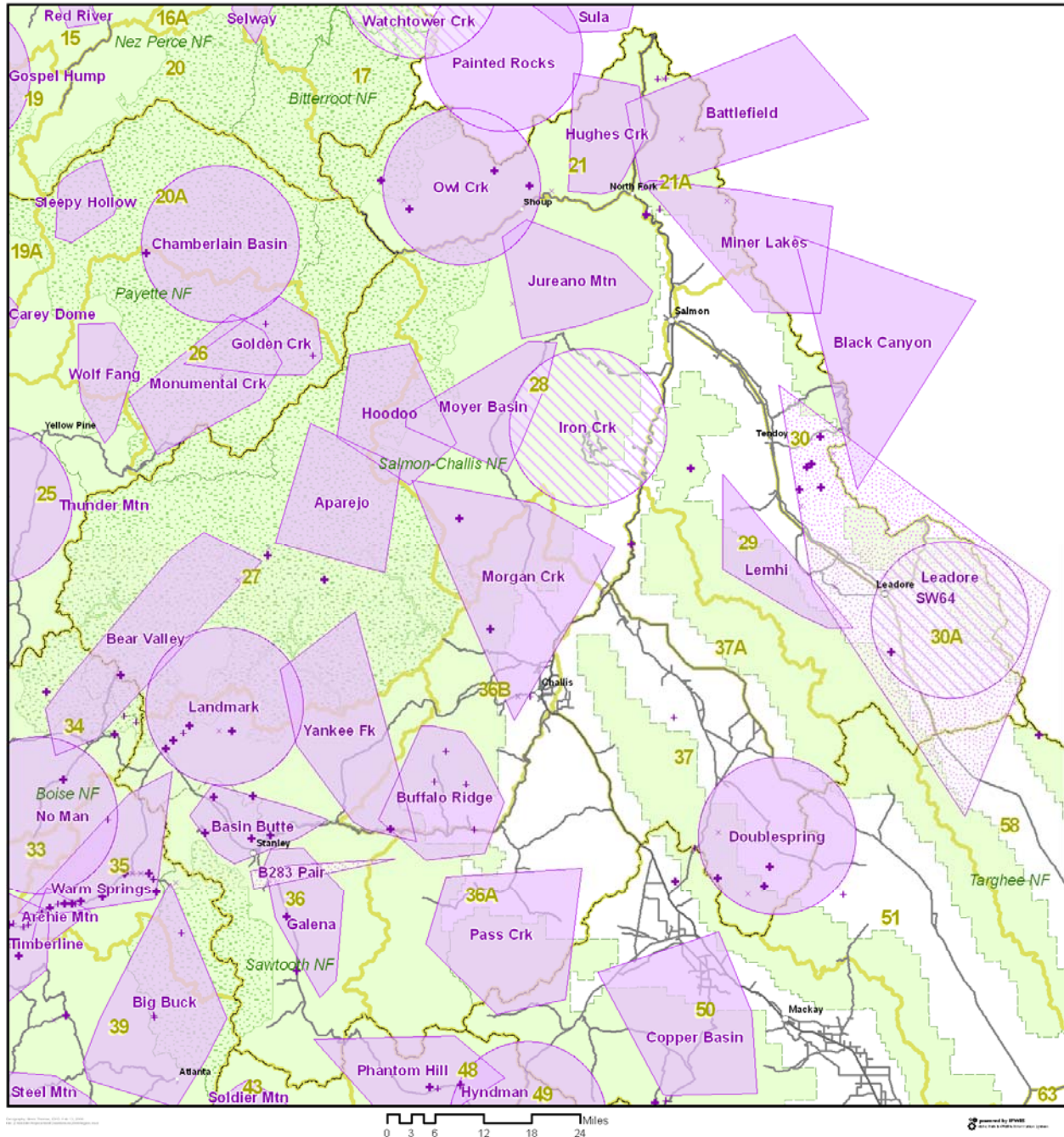
Telemetry, Documented and Suspected Locations

2007 Public Observations ***

- Documented Pack
- Documented Group (Less than 4 animals)
- Documented Lone Wolf

- Documented Pack
- Documented Group (Pair or Group less than 4 animals)
- Suspected Pack
- Terminated Group

- + Multiple Wolves Observed
- + Single Wolf Sighted
- x Not Specified



* Telemetry data and research locations collected and analyzed by Idaho Department of Fish and Game, the Nez Perce Tribe, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Wildlife Services and the National Park Service. Pack locations are minimum convex polygons of telemetry and research observations for radiocollared wolves from 1/1/2006 - 12/31/2007 with outliers removed. Packs which did not exist in 2007 are excluded. This map is provided for management purposes and should not be used for data analysis. Do not release these data to third parties without first contacting the Idaho Department of Fish and Game or the Nez Perce Tribe.

** Estimated Pack Activity determined by biologists from research locations, public observations and incidental observations from 1/1/2006 - 12/31/2007.

*** Public Observations from 1/1/2007 - 12/31/2007 collected on the Idaho Fish and Game website and reviewed by staff biologists.

Figure 13. Wolf pack activity and observations in the Salmon Region, 2007.

Table 8. Minimum number of wolves detected, reproductive status, mortality, dispersal, monitoring status, and livestock depredation for documented and suspected wolf packs and other wolf groups within Idaho Department of Fish and Game Salmon Region, 2007.

Wolf group ^a	Min. no. wolves detected ^b	Reproductive status			Documented mortalities				Known dispersal	Monitoring status			Confirmed & (probable) wolf-caused livestock losses		
		Min. no. pups prod. (died) ^c	Reported as		Natural	Control ^e	Other human ^f	Unknwn ^g		Active radio collars	No. wolf captures ^h	No. wolves missing ⁱ	Cattle	Sheep	Dogs
			reprod. pack	breeding pair ^d											
DOCUMENTED PACK															
Aparejo	13	?	NO	NO	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Basin Butte	13	5	YES	YES	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Battlefield (MT) ^j															
Black Canyon (MT) ^j															
Buffalo Ridge	6	7	YES	YES	0	2	0	0	1	2	1	0	3(1)	0	0
Castle Peak ^k															
Doublespring	8	1	YES	NO	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Galena	12	8	YES	YES	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	2	(1)	2	0
Hoodoo	13	3	YES	YES	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Hughes Creek (ID) ^j	11	2	YES	YES	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Jureano Mountain	?	2(1)	YES	NO	0	3	1	0	0	1	1	1	5	0	0
Landmark	?	1	YES	NO	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lemhi	2	?	NO	NO	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	9	0
Miner Lakes (MT) ^j															
Morgan Creek	5	2	YES	YES	0	3	0	0	0	0	2	0	2(2)	0	0
Moyer Basin	10	5	YES	YES	0	0	0	0	0	3	4	1	1	0	0
Owl Creek	?	?	NO	NO	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Painted Rocks (MT) ^j															
Pass Creek	8	3	YES	YES	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0
Sula (MT) ^j															
Twin Peaks ^k															
Yankee Fork	11	?	NO	NO	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
SUBTOTAL	112	39(1)			0	11	5	0	1	16	11	4	11(4)	11	0
SUSPECTED PACK															
Iron Creek	?				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3(1)	0	0
Leadore	?				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0
SUBTOTAL	0				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6(1)	0	0
OTHER DOCUMENTED GROUP															
B7	0				0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
B283	2				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
B290	?				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
SW-64	2				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SUBTOTAL	4	0			0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0

Table 8. Continued.

Wolf group ^a	Min. no. wolves detected ^b	Reproductive status			Documented mortalities				Known dispersal	Monitoring status			Confirmed & (probable) wolf-caused livestock losses		
		Min. no. pups prod. (died) ^c	Reported as		Natural	Control ^e	Other human ^f	Unknwn ^g		Active radio collars	No. wolf captures ^h	No. wolves missing ⁱ	Cattle	Sheep	Dogs
			reprod. pack	breeding pair ^d											
UNKNOWN															
	?				0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1(2)	0	0
SUBTOTAL	0	0			0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1(2)	0	0
REGIONAL TOTAL	116	39(1)			0	12	6	0	1	16	11	5	18(7)	11	0

^a Documented pack = territorial groups of wolves usually consisting of an adult male and female and their offspring from one or more generations, and has the potential to reproduce (2 adults of opposite sex). Suspected pack = geographic areas where wolf pack presence was suspected but not verified, or where wolf presence was verified but did not meet documented pack status. Other documented group = verified groups not meeting either documented or suspected pack status (e.g., lone wolves, potential mated pairs, etc.). Unknown = geographic areas where wolf presence was previously unverified and/or no data on group status was known.

^b Summing this column does not equate to number of wolves estimated to be present in the population.

^c Number in parentheses indicates known pup mortality; pup mortalities tallied in the appropriate column in DOCUMENTED MORTALITIES.

^d Breeding pairs are the measure of Federal and State wolf recovery and management goals. A breeding pair is defined as “an adult male and a female wolf that have produced at least 2 pups that survive until December 31 of the year of their birth...”.

^e Includes agency lethal control and legal take.

^f Includes all other human-related deaths.

^g Does not include pups that disappeared before winter.

^h Includes wolves captured for monitoring purposes during 2007. Most, but not all, were radiocollared.

ⁱ Radiocollared wolves that became missing in 2007.

^j Border pack officially tallied to (STATE); territory known/likely shared with Idaho. Data on these packs can be found in Rocky Mountain Wolf Recovery 2007 Annual Report. Data for mortalities and/or depredations by non-Idaho border packs that occurred within Idaho are presented here.

^k Group no longer considered extant due to agency lethal removal, lack of verified evidence for the preceding 2 years, or other cause.